

REMARKS

Amendment summary

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-7 will be pending.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 are amended to recite the temperature at which rebound resilience is measured (23°C). Support for this amendment is found, e.g., in Paragraph No. [0046] of the present specification, which indicates that the rebound resilience is measured according to JIS-K-6255-1996. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants attach herewith a copy of JIS-K-6255-1996, along with an English-language translation of the relevant portion of that document, which illustrates that the test is conducted at 23°C.

No new matter is added by this Amendment, and Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment is proper.

Status of the claims

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being indefinite. In addition, Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Obrecht (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,296) in view of Sakai (JP 06220252) and Lommerts (U.S. Patent No. 5,194,210).

Response to rejection of Claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being indefinite because the claims did not recite the temperature at which rebound resilience was measured. Applicants respectfully note that Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended to recite that the rebound

resilience is measured at 23°C. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this § 112 rejection.

Response to rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Obrecht in view of Sakai and Lommerts

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not render obvious to presently claimed invention.

As Applicants have explained in Paragraph Nos. [0012] and [0019] of the present specification, when a coating rubber that is typically used for a general fiber cord (such as nylon and the like) is used with a polyketone fiber cord, the difference between the rigidities of the coating rubber and the cord at the interface between the two is large, which brings about a stress concentration. Therefore, when using a polyketone fiber cord, there is a need to make the difference between the rigidities of the coating rubber and the cord small.

The present inventors have found that the stepwise difference between the rigidities of a polyketone fiber and a coating rubber is small at the interface between the two when the modulus and rebound resistance of the coating rubber is defined according to the present invention.

The cited prior art does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention because the cited prior art does not disclose or teach that the coating rubber should have the presently recited modulus and rebound resilience, in view of the large stepwise difference that may exist between the rigidities of coating rubber and a polyketone fiber cord at the interface between the two.

With respect to Obrecht, Applicants respectfully note that Obrecht does not explicitly illustrate the use of the rubber composition therein for a carcass and/or tire tread, nor does Obrecht disclose the use of a polyketone fiber cord. Applicants therefore submit that Obrecht does not teach or suggest that a coating rubber having the presently recited modulus and rebound resilience should be used in order to avoid a stress concentration when a polyketone fiber cord is used.

With respect to Sakai, Applicants respectfully submit that this reference does not disclose or suggest the use of a coating rubber having the presently recited modulus and rebound resilience. Sakai also does not disclose the use of a polyketone fiber cord.

Finally, Applicants note that Lommerts does not teach or suggest that a coating rubber having the presently recited modulus and rebound resilience is used when a polyketone fiber cord is used.

Applicants respectfully note that none of the above references discloses or suggests that a coating rubber should have the presently recited modulus or rebound resilience if being used to coat a polyketone fiber cord, in order to avoid a stress concentration.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by or rendered obvious by the cited prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this § 103 rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/550,553

Attorney Docket No.: Q90237

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

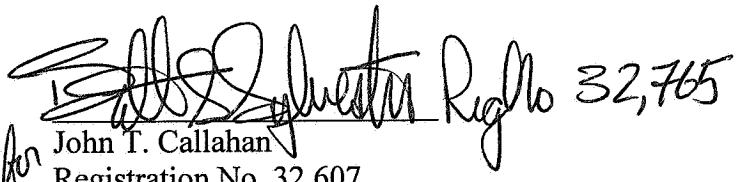
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